

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating the atria appendage comprising:

entering the chest cavity with a surgical instrument creating a surgical opening;

- 5       introducing a pericardial access device through said opening;

entering the pericardial space between the pericardium and the heart;

navigating an electrosurgery device to the atrial appendage;

activating the electrosurgical device to remodel the atrial appendage.

- 10       2. The method of claim 2 wherein said navigating step is carried out under visual guidance through the endoscopic system.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said electrosurgical device is a unipolar electrocautery scissors.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said electrocautery device is a bipolar electrocautery scissors.

- 15       5. The method of claim 1 wherein said electrocautery device is a snare loop.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said electrocautery device includes at least one saline electrode.

7. The method of shrinking the atrial appendage comprising the steps:

entering the chest cavity with a surgical instrument creating a surgical opening;

- 20       introducing a pericardial access device through said opening of the type having an extended catheter body with an aspiration lumen for connecting to the pericardium;

entering the pericardial space between the pericardium and the heart;

navigating an electrosurgery device of the type having at least one saline electrode, to the atrial appendage;

activating the electrosurgical device while irrigating the atrial appendage with saline from the electrosurgery device, to remodel the atrial appendage.

5 9. A method for treating the atrial appendage comprising:

entering the chest cavity with a surgical instrument creating a surgical opening;

introducing a pericardial access device through said opening;

entering the pericardial space between the pericardium and the heart;

navigating an endoscopic stapling device to the atrial appendage;

10 activating the stapling device to remodel the atrial appendage by closing off a portion of said atrial appendage.

10. An electrosurgery device for cutting tissue comprising:

an elongate tubular body;

a fixed handle attached to said tubular body;

15 a sliding handle adapted to slide along said tubular body and located proximate said fixed handle;

a snare having a first end connected to said tubular body and a second end attached to said movable handle, whereby motion of said movable handle manipulates the snare.